

The Amateur Radio Service was founded upon several basic principals;

Proficiency in skills to Communicate and to use those skills for Public Service when needed.

Amateurs have been required by the FCC to complete a testing procedure to insure they are proficient in these skills. Basic skills that are vital in handling Emergency Traffic when a disaster strikes. One of the Most Basic Skills required of an Amateur is that he / she be able to communicate via Morse Code. Simply being able to pick up a microphone and speak is not a skilled event. For those who can not or mostly WILL NOT become proficient in Morse Code there is the Citizen Band area of the Spectrum where they may communicate to their hearts content. The Amateur Radio Service was not intended for the Masses. It is a Skilled Pool of Operators that can and have been called upon to provide Communications when Disaster struck.

My "Elmer" W9TDH - George Marts age now 86, was called upon during WWII after being Drafted, to provide the US Army with his skills as a Communicator. Having already been tested by the FCC and issued the Call Sign of W9TDH prior to the War, George Marts was called upon to use his High Speed Code and Operating skills aboard a Troop Ship as "Sparks" in the South Pacific. The Navy was so short of trained radio operators that orders were cut to provide trained , proficient radio operators to ships that needed them. I would consider that W9TDH was an invaluable asset. One of many Hams that utilized their Amateur Radio skills during that crisis where called upon.

Many disasters have occurred both Natural and Man made. Amateur Radio Operators have been there to assist in providing Communications when "All other forms of Communications " had failed.

I am very sincere when I say; "It requires a Skilled Dedicated Group of proficient Radio Operators to be of assistance in time of a Disaster or Emergency".

An Amateur Radio License that does not include a Code Proficiency Test should be considered as an "Entry Level Only" license issued to give a time period for the Operator to become more proficient in Amateur Radio Skills and nothing more.

Lowering the standards to give those who have not shown proficiency in Morse Code, FULL HF Privileges, is not the way to go. A Tech Plus who has demonstrated Code proficiency should have HF privileges. Again, the Amateur Radio Service is not intended for the Masses. If someone just wants to Talk over HF there is the Citizen Band area of the Spectrum.

Please do not eliminate the Code Proficiency requirement from the test procedure to become a licensed Amateur Radio Operator with full privilege to the HF areas.

These are my thoughts in response to those who have filed under RM 10781, RM 10782, RM 10783, RM 10784, RM 10784, RM 10785 and RM 10787.